

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05085 271817Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PER-05 IO-14 SCS-06 VOE-00 EB-08 /072 W
-----055739 281351Z /50

R 271511Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1986
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USUN NEW YORK 511

UNCLAS KINGSTON 5085

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CJ, PDIP
SUBJECT: CAYMAN ISLANDS; INTEREST IN HAVING CONSULATE OR
CONSULAR AGENCY

1. WHEN AN EMBASSY OFFICER VISITED THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
FROM JUNE 15-18, ONE SUBJECT THAT CAME UP IN ALL HIS
DISCUSSIONS WAS THE DESIRE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE
A CONSULATE OR A CONSULAR AGENCY OPENED AT GEORGETOWN,
THE CAPITAL. DENNIS FOSTER, CHIEF SECRETARY (I.E. CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER) OF THE GOVERNMENT AND V.G. JOHNSON,
FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THEY SPOKE FOR ALL MEMBERS OF
THE LEGISLATURE IN ASKING FOR PERMANENT U.S. REPRESENTATION.

2. THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE CAYMANIANS ARE:

A. ABOUT 80,000 U.S. TOURISTS VISIT PER YEAR WHILE
SOME 2-300 AMERICANS MAINTAIN HOMES IN THE ISLANDS WITH
THE NORMAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS, ILLNESSES, DEATHS AND OTHER
EVENTS REQUIRING CONSULAR SERVICES;

B. AN UNUSUALLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THE CAYMANIAN
POPULATION OF SOME 14,000 PERSONS VISIT THE U.S. AND A
GOOD NUMBER WORK ON U.S. SHIPS ALL REQUIRING VISA HELP;
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C. U.S. COMMERCIAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC INTERESTS SUCH
AS TRADE (THE U.S. IS BY FAR THE MAJOR TRADING PARTNER),
INVESTMENT (POSSIBLY A LARGE POL TANK FARM) AND BANKING
INTERESTS ARE IMPORTANT AND GROWING;

D. VISITS BY U.S. OFFICIALS FROM DEA AND IRS REQUIRE

MORE COORDINATION IF MAXIMUM BENEFITS ARE TO BE REALIZED BY BOTH SIDES.

3. THIS EMBASSY, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSULAR INTERESTS IN THE CAYMANS, PLANS TO SET UP A SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY VISITS TO GEORGETOWN BY EMBASSY OFFICERS. AFTER 2-3 MONTHS WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER THE VOLUME AND IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK GENERATED THERE WOULD WARRANT A RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN A CONSULATE OR TO NAME A CONSULAR AGENT THERE. MEANWHILE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS TO CONVEY TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST05085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-0616
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780617/aaaaaogf.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d24667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2197192
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAYMAN ISLANDS; INTEREST IN HAVING CONSULATE OR CONSULAR AGENCY
TAGS: PDIP, CJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d24667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014